

# Models Inspired By The Desert

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## An Artistic Note

FASHIONS are steadily becoming more artistic than they have been for many long years. Color is at last beginning to receive the attention which it deserves. Designers in their enthusiasm are searching in unusual and hitherto unthought-of places for inspiration.

A wave of Russian peasant art has just swept the country. Before that there was the Egyptian invasion, as well as the Chinese, the Japanese and the Spanish influence.

Now something new has appeared in Paris in the form of dresses and wraps embroidered by Algerian native workers in designs taken from the Orient. These dresses have been put on the market by several designers, among them Mlle. Evelyn Dufau, a well known worker in decorative arts. Mlle. Dufau is very original in her creations. She designs her dresses just as an artist would paint a picture. Often she takes her inspiration from Oriental verse.

### Fabrics Woven by Natives of Algeria

EACH dress is seemingly as extraordinary as its inspiration, but it is just its originality and Oriental charm that will appeal to the fashion devotee always in search of something different.

In addition to her many charming house dresses and negligees this designer also shows some very beautiful wraps in lovely color combinations and exquisitely wrought embroideries. Most of the models are developed in heavy crepe de Chine or crepe Marocain, but she also uses a hand-woven wool material made by the natives of Algeria. On this she uses an embroidery of vari-colored wool. These Algerian embroidered garments have been in several exhibitions in Paris, notably the Musée Galliera and Salon des Artistes Décorateurs.

If one is seeking color inspiration a wonderful place to find it is in the Arab's costume. The brilliant colors that these dark-skinned people love and wear so well are mellowed by the scorching African sun until they have become fabrics of rare beauty. Even the tents of these desert people are striped in bold colors which have been mellowed by time and the elements to unusual and beautiful tones.

### Old Ivory Color and Tawny Gold Shades

THERE are few women, no matter how great their love of color, who would care to depart so far from conventional dress as to adopt in their entirety all the colors portrayed in the Arab's garb, but, used with discretion, charming effects may be achieved.

For instance, an old ivory tint that combines beautifully with blue—a shade of blue frequently seen in a faded cotton fabric that, in its original color, was a strong French blue. Then there are the beautiful tawny gold shades which so often appear in the Arab's turban. These are most attractive used in combination with red and purple.

Various artist designers in Paris are bending their entire energy toward working out new color effects in fabrics. M. Louis Becker, a member of the French Society of the History of Costume, is having phenomenal success in coloring fabrics so as to give them the appearance of age. He makes tea gowns and blouses from these fabrics. Especially attractive are his short jackets which he calls bridge jackets. These were designed to be worn at resorts when women play bridge in the late afternoon.

M. Becker dyes materials so that one shade blends with another in marble effect. Everybody remembers the success of this method of dyeing six years ago and which has been used to some extent ever since. At that time only the surface of this process was scratched, as it were. This year, after much research, en-

tirely new effects have been created.

### The Tissue of a Thousand and One Nights

THE newest materials of this sort have been suitably named A Thousand and One Nights. Often after a silk has been dyed in several shades of one color—one shade blending into the other—lame effects are given so that the silk appears to have streams of silver or gold flowing over it.

Coats, hats and negligees are being made of these tissues of A Thousand and One Nights. Manufacturers have even gone so far as to make umbrellas from these artistically dyed silks. They also play a very important part in footwear—that is, for evening slippers or for mules. In fact, silks dyed by this

process may almost be said to be becoming an epidemic.

One of the loveliest of the recent importations is an evening gown of velvet in which ever so many Persian colorings blend into one another. Garments made of these materials require no trimming. They are made very simply, because it

would not be possible to draw attention from the materials, therefore trimming or a complicated design would be superfluous.

### Striking Color Effects In New Bridge Jackets

AMERICAN women have included in the outfits of clothes which they bought abroad various garments of these materials, most

prominent among them being the bridge jackets mentioned above, which are in very bright colors; also negligees and blouses, the latter being made in the form of loose over-blouses. They are really not shaped at all, but made of two straight pieces of material often joined at the shoulders with a beautiful piece of handwork, such as hand-knotted fringe. The beauty of these blouses

lies entirely in the wonderful effects obtained through dyes.

One of the loveliest just brought from Paris is of crepe de Chine with the background dyed in a marble effect of delicate shades of peacock blue. It has a border across the sleeves, shoulders and neck, as well as on the bottom of the blouse dyed in the most marvelous Persian colorings imaginable, in which faded pinks and wine colors appear. Running through the color border is a design of Egyptian figures in old ivory color.



Upper row, left to right—Wrap of crepe Marocain with metal embroidery. Dress called Prophet's Banner, made of green silk embroidered in gold. Tea gown of rose silk with silver embroidery. Lower row—Model in crepe Marocain with embroidery intermingling wool, silk and metal threads. Frock of crepe de Chine worked in vari-colored silks. Cloth wrap with wool embroidery.